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REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 15 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 2 to 8 are as originally presented. Claims 9 to 15 have been added provide the Applicant with a scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure.

1. OBJECTION TO PROPOSED DRAWING CORRECTION

The Examiner has objected to the proposed drawing correction on the basis that the proposed drawing correction filed on September 25, 2001 is not in the form of a pen-and-ink sketch showing changes in red ink or with the changes otherwise highlighted. In response, the Applicant has attached a further proposed drawing correction as Appendix A, highlighting the changes made to originally filed Figures 1, 4a, 5, 6, and 11 (the amendments will also be shown in red in follow-up correspondence).

2. OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has objected to the title on the basis that the title is not descriptive. In response, the Applicant has amended the title such that the new title is "METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A SPACER OF AN ELECTRICALLY DRIVEN WATER PURIFICATION APPARATUS", and submits that such title is sufficiently descriptive.

3. CLAIMS REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 to 7 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Specht. Additionally, the Examiner has rejected claim 8 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Specht or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Specht.

With respect to claim 1, the Applicant submits that amended claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references, including Specht. In particular, the cited

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references, including Specht, do not disclose a method of injection molding a spacer comprising a perimeter defined by an outer peripheral edge and an inner peripheral edge and having a surface with a sealing member extending therefrom, wherein the inner peripheral edge defines a space disposed inwardly from the outer peripheral edge, and a mesh extending across the space and coupled to the inner peripheral edge, including the steps of (a) providing a mold having a cavity and a core, the cavity having a first interior surface and a first continuous ridge depending from the first interior surface, the core having a second interior surface and a second continuous ridge depending from the second interior surface and aligned with the first continuous ridge, wherein at least one of the first and second interior surfaces includes an impression configured to effect formation of the sealing member on the spacer; (b) positioning a mesh having opposite sides between the cavity and the core such that, when the core and the cavity are clamped together, the mesh does not interfere with the formation of the sealing member upon injection of plastic material into the mold; and (c) pinching opposite sides of the mesh between the ridges to form a flow barrier. Amongst other things, the cited references do not disclose a method of injection molding a spacer having a perimeter with a sealing member extending from the surface of the perimeter, wherein the mesh is positioned so as not to interfere with the formation of the sealing member. As such, the Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

With respect to claims 2 to 15, each of claims 2 to 15 is directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1. As such, and relying on the foregoing reasons with respect to claim 1, the Applicant submits that claims 2 to 15 are also patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

If any additional fees are required by any of the foregoing amendments or submissions, permission is hereby granted to debit our deposit account number 07-1750.

The Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments, favourable consideration, and an early Notice of Allowability. The Examiner is invited to contact

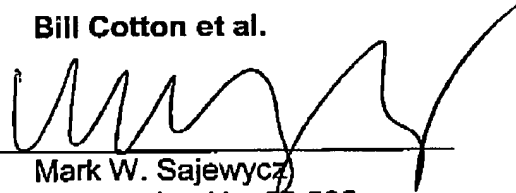
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Applicant's undersigned attorney at his office in Toronto at (416) 862-5795 to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cotton et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark W. Sajewycz', is written over a horizontal line.

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